

Regarding consideration of the expansion of radio ownership, I request that you not approve this change proposed in proceeding 02-277.

As a businessman, I want government regulation only where it is in the public's strong interest, but in certain areas, it is essential. Unfortunately, radio and television channel licensing is demanded by the technical limitations of their availability. If there were no technical limitations, I would have the ability and the right to put a small station on the air and broadcast, just as I have the right to start up a newspaper and let the public decide whether or not to buy copies. Ownership of multiple local stations by single operators has already dumbed-down AM and FM radio in metropolitan areas such as Denver, where I live. Increasing the number of stations one owner may amass is tantamount to reducing the number of channels on the radio bands, since it results in a sameness of content and style. I want greater variety across the dial, not less. Please do not make this problem worse by increasing the number of stations that can have a common ownership.